SOAS
University of London

GRADUATION ON A 2024

نحن لا نتضامن مع القضية نحن أصحابها

We do not just stand in solidarity with the cause, we are its custodians.

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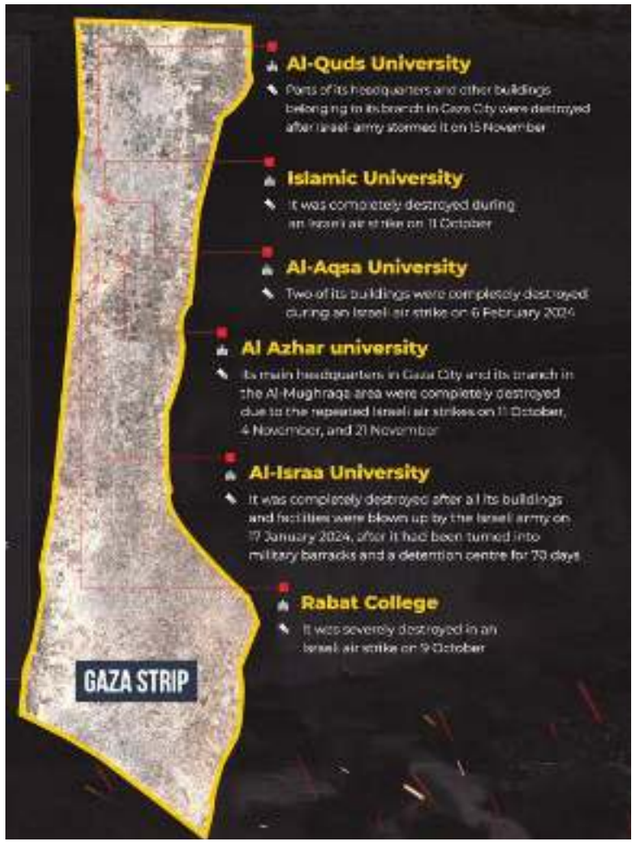

Al-Quds University
Parts of its headquarters and other buildings belonging to its branch in Gaza City were destroyed after Israeli army stormed it on 15 November
Islamic University
It was completely destroyed during an Israeli air strike on 11 October
Al-Aqsa University
Two of its buildings were completely destroyed during an Israeli air strike on 6 February 2024
Al Azhar university
Its main headquarters in Gaza City and its branch in the Al-Mughraqa area were completely destroyed due to the repeated Israeli air strikes on 11 October, 4 November, and 21 November
Al-Israa University
It was completely destroyed after all its buildings and facilities were blown up by the Israeli army on 17 January 2024, after it had been turned into military barracks and a detention centre for 70 days
Rabat College
It was severely destroyed in an Israeli air strike on 9 October
GAZA STRIP

Scholasticide is comprised of any of the following acts that entail systemic destruction, in whole or in part, of the educational life of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group:
1) Killings and assassinations of university and school teachers, students, staff, and administrators.
2) Causing bodily or mental harm to university and school teachers, students, staff, and administrators.
3) Arresting, detaining, and incarcerating university and school teachers, students, staff, and administrators.
4) Systematic harassment, bullying, intimidation of university and school teachers, students, staff, and administrators.
5) Bombarding and demolishing educational institutions.
6) Destroying and/or looting of teaching and research resources including libraries, archives, and laboratories, as well as facilities supporting the educational process, including playgrounds, sports fields, performance venues, cafeterias, and residence halls.
7) Impeding the import of essential materials for rebuilding damaged schools and universities.
8) Obstructing the creation of new educational structures.
9) Besieging schools and universities and using them as barracks, logistics bases, operational headquarters, weapons and ammunition caches, detention and interrogation centers

As graduation at the colonial institution of SOAS approaches, we are reminded in the 11th going onto the 12th month of the genocide that every single university building has been destroyed in Gaza. This is a clear attack on education by the zionist entity and attempt to wipe out Palestinian heritage whilst censoring Palestinian voices. The zionist colonial entity of Israel builds up its identity through theft of the Palestinians' history. SOAS and other British institutions have tried to maintain zionist propaganda by trying to limit any conversation on Palestine, but students are rising up to refuse this form of ethnic cleansing through education and are here to highlight the truth about the beginning of these massacres being perpetrated against the Palestinians, not only from 1948, but dating all the way back to 1917 when the Balfour Declaration was signed. We are reminded that important academics are targeted by the zionist entity, such as Dr Refaat Alareer, because they know that the education in Gaza and in Palestine is strong and will influence generations of educators to come. The zionist entity will fail on their attack on education as there is a whole demographic of Palestinians that will continue their education, like they currently are in Gaza in their tents, and will teach the world with their brilliance. They continue to remain steadfast on their land and they will return in their millions.

Welcome...

Welcome to SOAS Graduation 2024. Funded by apartheid and genocide.

These pages are normally filled with congratulations and pride. Not this year. **We are disgusted at the ceremony performed by SOAS**, an institution which, 11 months into the latest stage of genocide against the Palestinian people, still fails to end their complicity. There can be no celebration for **an education drenched in the blood of the Palestinian people**. Let us be clear: through their mismangement of the institution, **SOAS management have made all of us complicit in genocide.**

SOAS was founded in 1916 as a tool of empire, and continues in this tradition today. SOAS trains young people to act as agents of imperialism, coated with a veneer of decolonial language and illusions of social democracy. We are taught to bring learned 'expertise' on the global South into state programs, development organisations, banks, policy institutions... all these have failed to prevent, and some directly contribute to the genocide we are seeing in Palestine. This university fails to prepare students for the challenges we face in the world today.

The alliance between SOAS' management and the criminals profiting from war and genocide is exemplified through the institutions investments and partnerships. Data released in May 2024 showed over £6million invested in companies directly profiting from the genocide and settler colonial project being perpetrated against the Palestinian people. This includes investments in Albemarle, that produces and supplies white phosphorus to the terrorist Zionist Entity. Despite professing about histories of colonialism and slavery, SOAS continues to bank with Barclays, well known to have built their wealth through enslavement, a legacy which continues with their bankrolling of war and genocide today. When it comes to academic partnerships, students have been demanding for years that SOAS break ties with Haifa University. This institution, built on stolen Palestinian land, trains soldiers for the IOF, whilst awarding them a university degree. SOAS has enmeshed itself in the infrastructure of genocide; graduation here is a mark of shame on all of us.

SOAS may once have had a reputation as a space where students develop critical attitudes, and push education forwards. This is certainly no longer true. Current Director, Adam Habib, explicitly stated his intention to 'change the institutional culture' in the last few years, creating an increasingly authoritarian environment on campus. In the last 3 years, bailiffs have been called 3 times to remove students from campus; whilst this ceremony takes place, 7 students are banned from campus, one of whom has been permanently excluded, for holding management accountable for the school's continuing complicity in genocide. This repression has extended to the students union, where 2 of the 4 elected officers for the coming year were dismissed on their first day, without any warning or due process. These shifts should be deeply alarming, and set a dangerous precedent for the legacy of this cohort of students.

We find ourselves at a critical juncture: to continue with our heads in the sand, accepting the awards and accolades of these rotten institutions? Or to look elsewhere, to the dignity and principles shown by the Palestinian people, to the most educated population in the world, in Gaza. We need to reset our educational priorities, not just for the sake of our degree qualifications, but for the sake of life in an increasingly genocidal world. This brochure is a reminder of what SOAS University stands for, but also points to a different kind of education, one rooted in communities of resistance around the world. We have received a miseducation from SOAS, but it is part of a bigger educational process that is only just beginning. La lucha continua.

SOAS LIBERATED ZONE FOR GAZA. SEPTEMBER 2024.

Our Director, Adam Habib - hired on the back of leading violent student repression in South Africa, here to crack down on students and workers

Adam Habib brands himself as an intellectual, even an activist. The only thing bigger than his ego is the list of crimes he has committed as a dedicated agent of counter-revolution. Students at SOAS have been protesting against his appointment here ever since he was invited for an interview.

At Wits University in South Africa, where Habib was vice-chancellor, students made historic protests in the Fees must Fall movement, demanding free access to higher education as the end of apartheid promised. Habib called military police on the protestors, who shot students, some of them in the back as they were fleeing, with rubber bullets. Students are still imprisoned in South Africa as a result of the repression he took part in.

At SOAS, Habib has continued to show his repressive credentials, which he was likely hired for: shouting down Black students, attempting to strip them of their Africanness; delegitimising student protestors, taking to calling them thugs; turning SOAS into one of the worst HE employers in the country, with shocking treatment of workers including banning strike pickets on campus and docking 100% of their pay during a marking boycott in 2023.

Adam Habib, Director of SOAS since 2020. Suspended in 2021 for using the n-word in an all-student meeting. Defends his legacy of violent student repression in South Africa.

Everything Must Fall

Lord Dr Michael Hastings of Scarisbrick CBE, Chair of the SOAS Board of Trustees. Voted for the Rwanda deportation scheme, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, and other repressive government laws.

Adam Habib may run SOAS like his personal ego project, but he is actually carrying out the job of the Board of Trustees, a collection of individuals who sit as the elite body of SOAS. Look into the credentials of these individuals and you will find SOAS' long-defined role safeguarded by the elite operators of the capitalist-colonial networks. Recent and current Trustees include a former Britsh Ambassador to Afghanistan, Director of Rotschilds India, global venture capitalists, and those who voted for the Conservative Governments' Rwanda Plans. As students demand SOAS divest from Barclays and Microsoft, the Board of Trustees, made of current and former executives of those companies, turns down the requests.

Despite Adam Habib's record of repressing students, increasing hostility against workers, and completely failing to provide stable leadership to the school, the Board of Trustees recently renewed his contract, to run until 2030. This brings the Board in direct conflict with the interests of students and workers at SOAS, and delegitimises them as respectable Trustees of the University. Trustees David Willey and Tawnya Cheatham also led a disciplinary appeal panel which held a hearing to expel a student without even giving the student a chance to be present at the hearing.

Watch "Everything Must Fall" on the QR code opposite - A documentary on the Fees Must Fall movement, demadning access to free education in South Africa, which Adam Habib violently repressed

After students occupied the management corridor in 2022 to demand support for workers' strikes and a decolonised education, management called an "eviction response team" who violently removed students in the middle of the night

Director Adam Habib squares up to a student in June 2024, calling him a "thug"

In 2024, in the midst of the genocide, SOAS supports the UoL's calling of bailiffs on students camping to protest the more than £6million of SOAS' money which is invested in companies profiting from the genocide and apartheid being perpetrated against the Palestinian people. Students were evicted at 6am, and had many personal items stolen by bailiffs, including a large canvass painting of Haitham Gbreel, which was being auctioned to fundraise for his evacuation from Gaza.

Welcome to SOAS alumni - racists, desk killers and neo-colonial stooges

After graduation, you join a lifelong network of tens of thousands of SOAS alumni spread across the world - will you follow the SOAS legacy and serve imperialism?

As a SOAS graduate you are part of the SOAS family for life. Mainly, this means you will receive emails from the University asking you for donations to the school. If you want to come back to campus, make sure to apply for an alumni card, because you know how strict security are at the door these days.

Not all alumni follow the institutional path: we should never forget Walter Rodney, who had his own share of struggles and disappointments with SOAS' academic offering, yet used the archives and resources to put forward a revolutionary and in itself historic history of Africa. That work was not done for academia, but for his people, for the masses, and Rodney was eventually assassinated in 1983 whilst working with the Working Peoples Alliance for an alternative to neo-colonial exploitation in Guyana. In 2022, SOAS removed his portrait from the main building.

Sadly, when we examine SOAS's history, we find countless agents of empire—whether they were British officers of empire or individuals from the colonized world who were trained to believe in their superiority and their right to rule over their compatriots back home. SOAS's earliest alumni fall into the former category: blatant racists who represent the pinnacle of British colonial arrogance. However, more recent graduates have played a subtler, yet still dangerous, role by giving a 'liberal, democratic' face to the "re-colonization" enforced through international and financial organizations.

On the opposite page, we chronicle some of the trajectories of SOAS alumni to reveal the authoritarian training ground and the general mis-education concealed by SOAS's progressive façade. Edward Said also writes about SOAS's creation in his renowned book Orientalism. He discusses the imperial intellectual community, specifically "Lord" Cromer, Curzon, Zwettenham, and Lugard, who pressed for the creation of the School of Oriental Studies, which later became SOAS. Cromer believed that the British imperial presence in the Eastern colonies had a lasting—if not cataclysmic—effect on the minds and societies of the East. The idea of Western penetration into Oriental expanses was very powerful in Cromer's mind.

Edward Said's analysis was accurate then, and it remains applicable to SOAS's existence today. As he noted, "when Curzon referred somewhat inelegantly to Oriental studies as 'the necessary furniture of Empire,' he was capturing the dynamics by which Englishmen and natives conducted their business and maintained their roles. From the days of Sir William Jones, the Orient was both what Britain ruled and what Britain knew about: the alignment of geography, knowledge, and power, with Britain always in the master's place, was complete. To have said, as Curzon once did, that 'the East is a University in which the scholar never takes his degree,' was another way of saying that the East required one's presence there more or less forever."

Inspiring alumni?

Enoch Powell studied Urdu at SOAS in order to aid his ambition to become the 'Viceroy of India'. Failing to achieve his dream of upholding colonialism in India, he settled for instigating racist violence against immigrants from the 'Commonwealth' here in the colonial core. In his infamous 'Rivers of Blood' speech in 1968, he referred to immigration as an "evil", "tragic and intractable phenomenon". The legacy of this rhetoric, used today by the likes of Nigel Farage, is the fascist riots on the streets of the UK in the 1980's and in summer 2024.

Course in Urdu

David Lammy has served as the UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs since July 2024. Little more than a month after becoming foreign secretary Lammy visited war criminal Netanyahu, arriving a day after the slaughter of more than 88 Palestinians in Khan Younis, he failed to condemn this massacre. Lammy serves on a Labour government which refuses to implement an arms embargo on the Zionist Entity in the midst of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, which Lammy has refused to name as such. Clearly SOAS did not provide Lammy with an adequate education in international law.

Bachelor of Laws, 1993

Aung San Suu Kyi oversaw the genocide of the Rohingya people by Myanmar's security forces who murdered over 25,000 people and committed sexual violence against 18,000 women and girls. More than 730,000 Rohingya were expelled from Myanmar in 2017 in what Suu Kyi termed as an "internal conflict". She then went on to defend Myanmar's military against genocide allegations at the ICJ, claiming that the situation was "complex" and that at most the military had used "disproportionate force".

Master of Philosophy, 1987

Bisher Khasawneh - Prime Minister of Jordan, appointed by King Abdullah II - head of a government that represses Palestinians and those who stand in solidarity. As the genocide takes place a few kilometers away, Bisher's main complaint to the international community was not about the massacres being committed by their 'allies', but the threat posed to Jordan by the mass displacement of Palestinians.
The IMF have given their praise to Bisher's political rule in Jordan - indeed he is an effective pillar of the traitor Arab Regimes that sell out Arab freedom to appease western powers.

MA of International Affaires, Diplomacy and Economics

A true representative of SOAS's education, Sir Edward Youde was the colonial Governor of Hong Kong. He took part in negotiating the sino-British joint declaration, during which he advocated heavily for British colonial interests; one infamous line from the document reads, "the Socialist system and Socialist policies shall not be practiced in the region, and Hong Kong's capitalist system and lifestyle shall remain unchanged for 50 years." Youde was a "Sinologist": an orientalist who claimed to be an expert on China more than the Chinese people. At least that's who he thought he was when he failed at negotiating the release of the British warship HMS Amethyst during the infamous amethyst incident in the Chinese civil war that ended Western gunboat diplomacy and retained their sovereignty over their seas.

SOAS careers service

The most common paths for SOAS graduates, the ones that the university brags about on its website, include working in governments, banks, development agencies and the NGO industrial complex. There has also been recruitment efforts in SOAS of Intelligence Agencies that violently uphold Empire, including, but not limited to, Mi5, Mi6, Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), and the Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO). SOAS has also collaborated with the Ministry of Defence, in particular the Defence Cultural Specialist Unit (DCSU) which has partaken in specialised imperialist counterinsurgency in places like Mali, Afghanistan, Somalia, Oman and Yemen. This makes sense for a university set up to provide the necessary services for British imperialism abroad. Whilst many of the more 'developmental' jobs might seem appealing to some, keep asking yourself - does this allow community self-empowerment and reliance and give communities the tools to take control of their own destinies? Or do they rather function as a means to maintain power in the financial centre of London, to define the terms of development for the colonised world and keep them in a state of dependency and inferiority? Does SOAS teach us the reality of communities of resistance who are currently uprooting imperialism, and transforming their conditions? Or do they turn decolonisation into a theoretical exercise, a sanitised history of something that 'happened', whilst the majority of the world continues to live under the shackles of neo-colonialism?

What does true education look like?

The goal of education should be to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to serve and better advance the needs and requirements of the masses in society. This is to ensure society's integral, social and cultural development with respect for Peoples' and Mother Earth rights. The Planet Repairs Action Learning Revolution (PRALER) entails popularising Planet Repairs educational processes -- that are advancing the liberation of all Peoples and Mother Earth.

Deux Heures pour Nous, Deux Heures pour Kamita, is an organisation that young people at the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, AES, have created as a site of true education, participatory democracy, and where they can come together to advance their role in society for their peoples' emancipation from neo-colonialism. It is run by young people at the university, who meet for two hours every day between 1pm and 3pm throughout the academic year, seeing education as a space to transform the conditions of the masses around them.

Consejo Indigena Y Popular de Guerrero - Emiliano Zapata (CIPOG-EZ) is a council of indigenous communities in the Mountain of Guerrero, Mexico, that are organising their communities to defend their territories and lives from extractivist mining companies and from narco-paramilitary groups. They are currently running a radio program to work on revitalising their indigenous languages, traditions and customs, and educate their communities on their Peoples and Mother Earth rights e.g. right to self-determination, ILO Convention 169 etc. As well as strengthen their community cohesion.

Work to Transform the World

In an increasingly violent and fascist world, and with the growing implications of the climate and ecological crisis, now more than ever, we must direct our energy, knowledge, and resources toward the betterment of society and the flourishing of all life.

One of the first ways we can do this is by connecting with Indigenous and other community educational processes, taking leadership from them, and respecting their self-determined decision-making processes rather than going over their heads. For those considering further academic study, there must be deep reflection on what that education is for, who it serves, and where that knowledge originates. Progressive intellectuals must avoid creating isolated bubbles where the violent realities of this world are discussed in abstraction. Instead, they should recognize, learn from, and offer their skills, knowledge, and service to those on the ground to further advance these efforts.

We should also work to redistribute resources. The resources, often extracted from these very communities and funneled into privileged institutions, should be redirected to support community-driven educational processes. This redistribution is not just about financial support but also about sharing knowledge, infrastructure, and opportunities that have long been denied to these communities.

Planet Repairs Internationalist Observatory (PRIO) is seeking to promote communities to engage in Planet Repairs Co-Learning, Monitoring, Accountability, and grassroots peoples to peoples internationalist diplomacy in defence of their Human, Peoples' and Mother Earth rights, in accordance with their own indigenous and other cultural and educational imperatives.

Global Citizenship Education for Planet Repairs (GCEPRA) is a community based educational initiative which is trying to take indigenous knowledges and decolonisation for planet repairs action learning into mainstream schools, colleges and universities in Ghana and West Afrika to combat mis-education. It draws attention to alternative educational processes that communities across the world are trying to develop and local initiatives like agro-ecology. It also teaches how Global Citizenship educational initiatives, like of the UNESCO, can be adapted to serve indigenous and other communities in their own local context, respecting their right to self-determination.

Honoured Martyrs

Dr Refaat Alareer

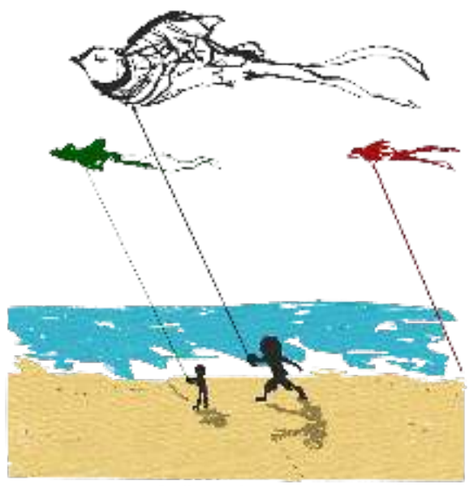
Honoured martyr and UCL/SOAS alumni

Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at the Islamic University of Gaza

Dr. Refaat Alareer was a Palestinian academic, writer, poet and activist from Shuja'iyya, Gaza who studied at the Islamic University of Gaza for his BA, and University College London for his MA in English Literature. Dr Alareer then went on to become a professor of Literature and creative writing at the Islamic University of Gaza. He co-founded the organisation "We Are Not Numbers", which connected authors and young writers in Gaza together and used the power of storytelling, writing and literature as a means of Palestinian resistance. His most famous works include a collection of poetry entitled "Gaza Writes Back: Short Stories from Young Writers in Gaza, Palestine." In 2007, Dr. Alareer was a student at SOAS and completed a module in Arabic Poetry and Criticism with the highest mark in his group. He was a true embodiment of the core values SOAS should carry, rather than the repressive and violent atmosphere it currently holds.

In 6 December 2023, Dr. Alareer's home was bombed by an Israeli air strike which killed him. He was deliberately targeted by the IOF after receiving multiple death threats online as part of their attacks on education in Palestine, being one of Gaza's best academics. He had refused to leave Northern Gaza and remained steadfast in his home since the start of the genocide in October. His brother Salah with his son Mohammad, and his sister Asmaa along with three of her children were among those killed in the air strike. Dr Alareer was an embodiment of Palestinian steadfastness, and had said that even if he had no weapons, he would defend himself against the IOF, against all odds.

Dr Alareer's most famous poem was the last one he wrote titled "If I must die", a poem that illustrates the Palestinian struggle, hope and strength. We will continue to honour his legacy and his words, "If I must die, you must live, to tell my story." We will carry his story onto our campus and wherever we go. We will continue to honour his heroic efforts and to carry Palestinian heritage through literature and creative writing, as cultural pillars that preserve and reclaim history and give a voice to those who feel as though they are voiceless.



Dr Maisara Al Rayees

Honoured martyr and KCL/SOAS alumni

Doctor and Physician, Medical Doctor at Medicines du Monde-France

On the 5th of November 2023, Dr. Al Rayees was killed by Israeli bombardment on his home in Gaza. For 30 hours, Dr. Al Rayees was trapped alongside his family, his father, his sister and her children. His two brothers Muayyad and Muhammad were also massacred whilst trying to help him and the rest of the family escape from under slabs of concrete and rubble that they were trapped under for two days. Emergency services struggled to reach them and free them in time amid the siege imposed by Israel.

As not only a SOAS alum who came in 2019 to give a very insightful and important talk titled "Voices from Gaza" where he shared his experiences living under siege. Dr. Al Rayyes' sent a last message to the KCL Justice for Palestine Society saying "'In the last few days, I'm starting to feel more terrified than ever. I imagine myself underneath the rubble, and I have a great fear of staying alive under the rubble". We remember the heroic Dr. Maisara Al Rayees and recognise another pillar of the SOAS and KCL community who lived to serve his people. An inspiration to us all, we will continue to honour the legacy of Dr. Maisara Al Rayees.

Dr. Maisara Al Rayees was a Palestinian doctor and Physician from Gaza City, and an inspirational young healthcare leader who was committed to improving health conditions among his community in Gaza. Dr. Al Rayees studied medicine for his undergraduate degree in Al Quds University after being top of his class in his secondary school in Gaza. He graduated from his degree with honours in 2018, as the Great March of Return was taking place in Gaza, and he volunteered to treat demonstrators who were wounded during the protests. He was also a medical doctor at Medicines du Monde-France to help prepare primary health care clinics in Gaza, to operate as trauma care centres.

In 2019, he gained a prestigious Chevening scholarship programme to study a masters in Women and Children's Health at King's College London. Dr. Al Rayees was a project coordinator for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (2017-19), and led the training of medical students to become life saving first aid instructors and gain skills to act in emergency situations. He was also the president of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFSMA) in Gaza. It is one of the oldest and largest student-run organisations and connects medical students globally with an inspiring and engaging network.

Honorary Members of the Student Union

Haitham Gbreel

Honourary Student In Deir Al Balah, Gaza

Haitham Gbreel is a 22 year old nursing student from Gaza who studied nursing at Al Aqsa University in Gaza.The Zionist Entity's genocidal campaign completely destroyed Gaza's university infrastructure. This is a deliberate attempt by the Zionist Entity to try to attack all forms of education in Gaza in order to try to ethnically cleanse Palestinian history and heritage.

Ever since the beginning of the genocide, countless homes have been destroyed including Haitham's, he now currently lives with his family in tents in Central Gaza, in Deir Al Balah. Deir Al Balah is currently being targeted by the Zionist Entity and multiple evacuation orders have been issued despite the fact that there is nowhere safe to go too. Haitham's siblings can no longer go to school as the school year ended early due to the massacres where tens of thousands of children were killed by the Zionist Entity and school infrastructure being destroyed. Haitham's father cannot work due to the ongoing genocide, and his mother has rheumatic disease putting her in an extremely vulnerable position.

Nursing Student at Al Aqsa University in Gaza

Haitham has been a friend of the students at SOAS, specifically those of the SOAS Liberated Zone for Gaza. His presence has been so important for SOAS students, teaching us about his experiences in Gaza and he motivates students as part of the global student movement to continue to take action to hold institutions such as SOAS accountable for their crimes against the Palestinian people. His calls with students and his spirit have uplifted the students of SOAS, inspiring us with his steadfastness.

Haitham and his friends have been spreading joy to the kids of Gaza and recently preparing and providing them with packs of aid that include food and drinks, despite the fact that there are little to no resources, in Gaza currently. Haitham, his family and friends still remain in Deir Al Balah despite evacuation orders, and are determined to remain steadfast. We draw our strength and commitment to the Palestinian struggle from people like Haitham. Haitham's friends have been martyred and we will continue to honour them and highlight them on campus. Haitham is an inspiration to all students and hopes to continue his studies in the UK in nursing. The SOAS Liberated Zone for Gaza has been raising funds to try to help him and his family evacuate safely out of Gaza. The link is on the @soasliberatedzone instagram.

Dr Ghassan Abu Sitta

Honorary Doctor from Gaza

Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta, is a Palestinian doctor from Gaza whose family was expelled from their land during the Nakba in 1948. He followed his father's footsteps in studying medicine at the University of Glasgow. After graduating he began working for the NHS and in 2011, joined the faculty of the American University of Beirut Hospital and moved to Beirut. He provided remote assistance for surgeons working in Gaza. Dr. Abu Sitta was the Director of AUB's Plastic Reconstructive Surgery Department from 2012-2020 where he co-founded and co-directed the Conflict Medicine Program at AUB's Global Health Institute. In 2021, Dr. Abu Sitta was a lecturer at the Centre for Blast Injury Studies at Imperial College London.

Dr. Abu Sitta was inspired to focus on conflict medicine and visited Gaza as a medical student during the first intifada (1987-1993). He also traveled to Gaza as a member for Medical Aid for Palestinians to provide medical assistance during the second intifada (2000-2005), the war on Gaza (2008-2009), the 2012 massacre by the Zionist Entity in Gaza, the 2014 war on Gaza and the Great March of Return in 2018. He also worked in other countries during invasions, wars and crises, I.e. Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Dr. Abu Sitta has come to the SOAS Liberated Zone for Gaza to give teach outs, specifically during the first phase of the encampment. He has spoken about his experiences in Gaza, and provided valuable insight on the healthcare infrastructure, and the attack on the healthcare system in Gaza by the Zionist Entity. He was elected Rector of the University of Glasgow in April 2024.

Doctor, newly elected Rector of Glasgow University and previous alumni

Dr Abu Sitta returned to Gaza on 9th October 2023 during the start of the genocide and provided medical assistance with Doctors Without Borders at Al-Shifa hospital and Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, operating on those injured by the Zionist aggressions. During the first bombing and massacre of Al-Ahli hospital in October, Dr Abu Sitta gave a press conference on the situation on the ground and the siege imposed by Israel. When he returned back to London, he partook in multiple conferences discussing his experiences, including testimonies on treating patients that suffered from the illegal chemical weapon, white phosphorus that burns the skin of Palestinians in Gaza, which the IOF untruthfully denied using. SOAS invests hundreds of thousands of pounds in the production of this chemical weapon through Albemarle. Dr. Abu Sitta was denied entry from multiple countries such as Germany and France simply for going to attend a Pro-Palestinian event.

We recognise and will continue to highlight the true heroes such as Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta for all he has done as a doctor in Gaza and other countries. We will continue to honour the martyrs in his and his wife's family and carry their spirits with us wherever we go. He is an inspiration to the entire world.

Posthumous Honorary Member

Dr Ghassan Kanafani

Writer and Revolutionary

Ghassan Fayiz Kanafani was born in Akka in 1936 during the British Mandate occupation of Palestine, to Fayiz, a lawyer, and his wife Aisha al-Salim. The couple had eight children. Ghassan was the third. As a young boy, he studied at the renowned College des Freres, a French Catholic missionary school in Yaffa, but was unable to complete his education there. In 1948, aged just 12, the Zionist capture of Palestinian land forced the Kanafanis into exile.
The family first sought refuge in nearby Lebanon and then in the Syrian capital Damascus. Kanafani shared his memories of his early childhood experiences in his short essay The Land of Sad Oranges.

In Damascus, Kanafani found work at a printing press to support his family - perhaps the spark for his later career as a writer. By night, he would study and later qualified as an art teacher, starting work for UN refugee agency schools in 1953. It was around this time that the teenager became more politically aware, after meeting the Palestinian revolutionary George Habash.

Habash was from Lydd (Lod) and like Kanafani, was forced to flee his homeland during the illegal establishment of the Zionist Entity. His Arab nationalist and revolutionary socialist ideology had a big impact on Kanafani's own thought, and it was Habash who convinced Kanafani to start writing for Al-Rai (The Opinion) newspaper. In the early 60s, Habash founded the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a revolutionary organisation whose military wing targeted Zionist interests with guerrilla operations as well as plane hijackings. Kanafani served as the group's spokesman and the editor of its weekly magazine, Al-Hadaf.

A young Kanafani was in his early years described by fellow Palestinian journalist Rassem Al-Madhoun as having a “fragile grasp” of Arabic, perhaps because of his time studying at a French school.

Recognising this, Kanafani decided to study Arabic Literature at the University of Damascus. By 1957, Kanafani had published his first short story, A New Sun. In the brief but remarkable writing career that followed, Kanafani produced some of the Arab world's most celebrated works of fiction, including Men in the Sun.

In the short story Return to Haifa, a Palestinian couple come back to the home they were expelled from in 1948 in search of the infant son who went missing when they fled. They arrive at the house and find that it now occupied by a Zionist couple who have adopted the child and raised him as a Zionist Jew. The work is an expression of how for Palestinians, the familiar can become strange, and symbolises the way their own hopes for the future remain locked in an irresolvable clash with those of the Zionists.

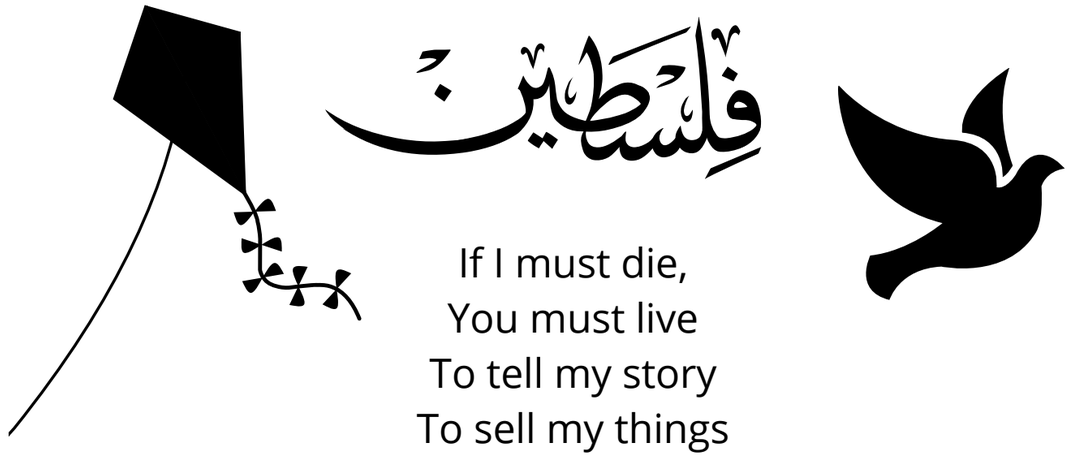
Kanafani briefly lived in Kuwait before moving to Beirut in 1960, where he met his wife, the Danish activist Anni Hover, who was in the Middle East to learn more about the Palestinian struggle.
The couple married in 1961 and had two children, a son named Fayez and daughter called Laila. In her book dedicated to Kanafani, My Husband, My Teacher, Hover writes: “I came to Lebanon more than ten years ago to 'study' the Palestine problem. In you I found Palestine - the land and its people - and through our marriage I became part of Palestine...”

Ghassan rejected the idea of negotiations with the Zionists and when asked why Palestinians don't "just talk" to the ‘Israelis’, responded "talk to whom"? He continued: "That’s the kind of conversation between the sword and the neck."

In Beirut on 8 July 1972, a 36-year-old Kanafani and his 17-year-old niece Lamees Najim got into his Austin 1100. Turning on the ignition, he triggered a car bomb that immediately killed the pair. Mossad later claimed responsibility for the assassination.

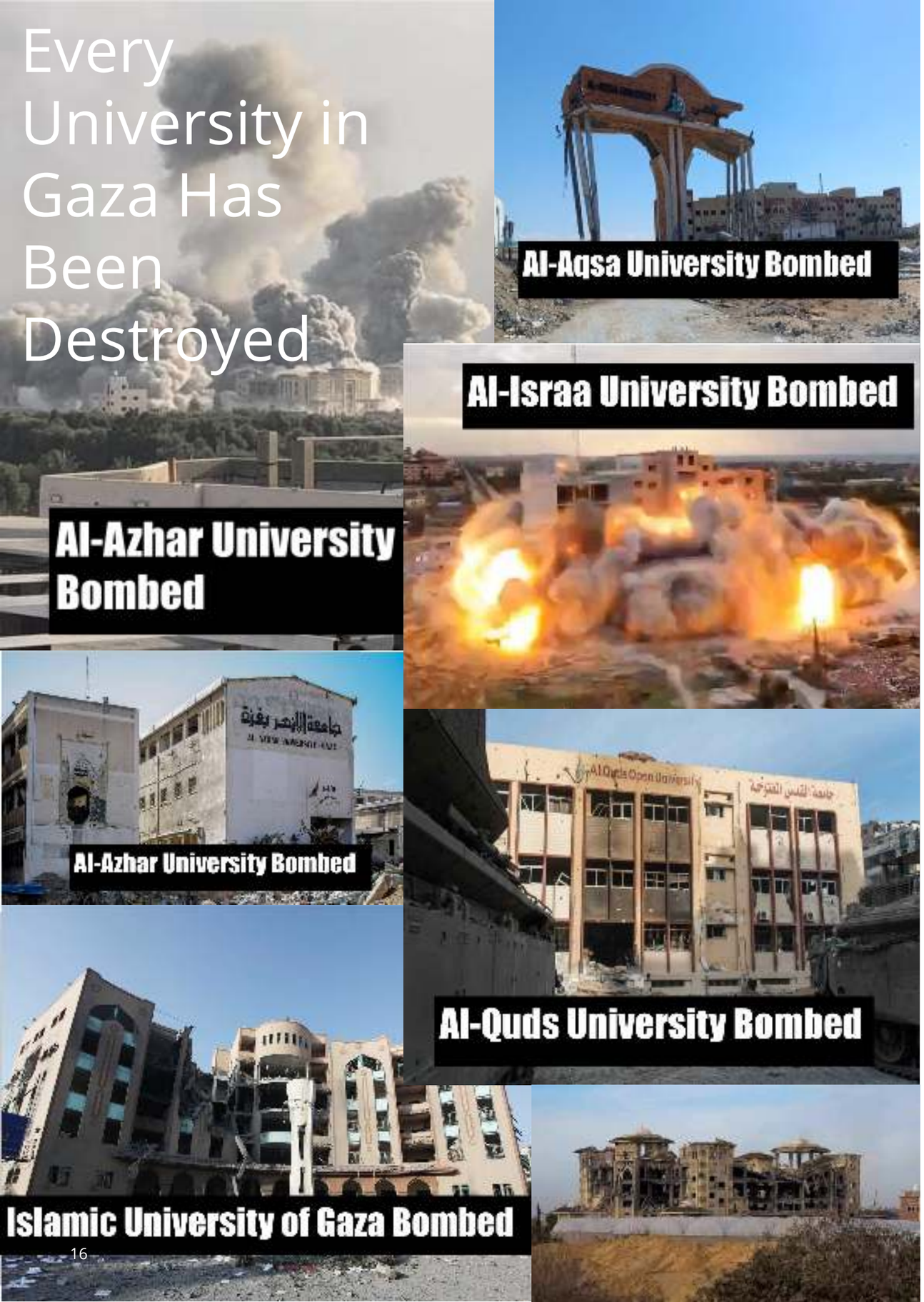
Kanafani left behind a legacy as one of Palestine and the Arab world's greatest writers, with schools and cultural organisations named after him across the region. Palestinians celebrate him for his literary skill and his tender portrayal of their struggle. His stories laid the ground work for other Palestinian authors who helped develop his concept of "resistance literature".

He was known by many as the “commando who never fired a gun, whose weapon was a ballpoint pen, and his arena, newspaper pages.”



If I must die,
You must live
To tell my story
To sell my things
To buy a piece of cloth
And some strings,
(make it white with a long tail)
So that a child, somewhere in Gaza
While looking heaven in the eye
Awaiting his dad who left in a blaze–
And bid no one farewell
Not even to his flesh
Not even to himself–
Sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above
And thinks for a moment an angel is there
Bringing back love
If I must die
Let it bring hope
Let it be a tale

Refaat Alareer



We Will Honour All Our Martyrs

Bellow are the names of martyrs of graduation age; 22-25 years old, who will never be able to graduate because of the zionist entity's genocide against the Palestinian people. There are tens of thousands more people who had lives, dreams and ambitions, whose names could not fit on these pages... May they rest in peace and power, we will carry their legacies.

Aged 22

Ibrahem Ahmed Abdul-malek Ghniam
Ahmed Hussain Suleiman Abumarahil
Muhammad Mtokal Ahmed Aldquran
Hind Ibrahem Saeed Altoil
Nisrin Hassan Muhammad Aql
Amanei Anwar Shawki Blaihah
Anas Mjadi Rizq Shmalai
Ayah Hlla Ali Hassan Abbas
Yasmin Ahmed Ali Aboarahamuah
Hia Hani Hussain Alhoar
Ahmed Ayman Jaber Ismael
Alaa Mahmoud Abdalihamaid Jadallah
Mahmoud Rami Suleiman Wshah
Bshar Sama Musleh Farajallah
Mahmoud Muhammad Mahmoud Shnino
Ahmed Habib Mdhaan Aliqurinaoi
Malk Adnan Suleiman Sarsoar
Muhammad Refaat Salem Alamishi
Anas Flstain Muhammad Qdhamuah
Rana Muhammad Mahmoud Abual-naja
Baraa Waleed Muhammad Abu-shuaib
Abeer Ahmed Ibrahem Alasar
Daood Sama Daoud Whadan
Fatima Saeed Hassan al-Shafi'i
Aal Atef Abdal-hadi Atwan
Ahmed Majed Ahmed Rabah
Hamzah Ahmed Zeydan al-Hawajri
Firoz Suleiman Ahmed Altalaa
Jehad Nazar Ghazi Abonasar
Riama Ismail Muhammad Abulebdeh
Aniasam Aneis Fathi Abdalnabi
Shams Suhail Abdalrahamun Alsos
Abd Alaata Mahmoud Abd Alaata Abual-awar
Bkar Nabil Hassan Abwjabr
Bisan Nidal Ltfi Squr
Kariam Raiadh Hamdan al-Sha'er
Issa Mazin Saeed Alzrd
Muhammad Alaian Rshad Aldos
Shaimaa Raaf Salman Aboshab

Aged 23

Muhammad Noma'an Fadl Haji
Muhammad Mousa Mahmoud Zarab
Ahmed Ltfi Muhammad Abuobaid
Zkaraia Jehad Hussain Alamunaamuah
Sjod Hamadah Faid Abusalima
Israa Ata Muhammad Abual-eish
Zkaraia Bkar Hamid Abubayd
Aataiah Fathi Aataiah al-Nabahin
Abdalihamaid Khaled Abdalihamaid Fadel
Abdalazaiaz Mahmoud Muhammad al-Agha
Asma Bsam Muhammad Brhom
Muhammad Mahmoud Ibrahem Alblbisai
Muhammad Sameir Ahmed Jnadiah
Muhammad Ahmed Mahmoud Alhobi
Rayed Abd Hlla Alaian Abululi
Mahmoud Ayman Muhammad Alghol
Ali Nasser Nmar Aql
Nadaa Ayman Ahmed al-Sha'er
Ayah Aataallah Mousa al-Ajili
Mahmoud Ahmed Ishtioi Abumukhaimer
Mahmoud Muhammad Mahmoud Abudayeh
Muhammad Nabil Jodt Saad
Hazm Saad Muhammad Nassar
Khamis Mousa Fares Altananei
Firoz Yousef Muhammad Alaasi
Yasmin Ibrahem Ayesh Shaheen
Ahmed Adel Qasam Alskni
Amjad Aid Rshad Zeino
Muhammad Fozai Ibrahem Husaonah
Anas Tofiq Ahmed Badwan
Bian Ibrahem Bhjt Abodan
Samar Ibrahem Kamel Abdo
Noma'an Ismail Saleem al-Nabahin
Nadr Muhammad Ali al-Derawi
Muatz Muhammad Ahmed Aliqtshan
Raghad Yasr Abdal-fattah Hamad
Muhammad Kamal Hamid Aboaon
Shaimaa Tariq Ibrahem Aliqtaa
Rola Jwad Azat Algholah

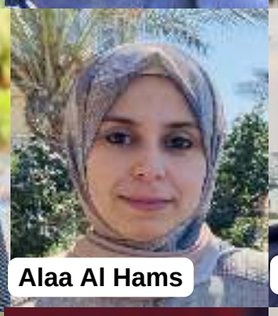
We Will Honour All Our Martyrs

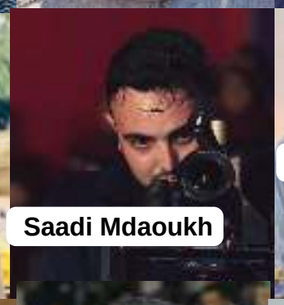
Aged 24

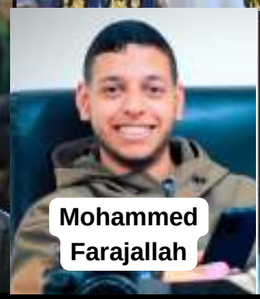
Nahdh Helmi Saleh Alamaidnuah
Hada Saleh Saleh Abual-naja
Saleh Muhammad Abdullah Abual-naja
Jod Ayman Saleh Abual-naja
Ayman Saleh Abdullah Abual-naja
Muhammad Mahmoud Muhammad Abudayeh
Rjaa Hussain Mahmoud Ahmed
Fares Mousa Fares Saleh
Lamaiaa Ibrahem Kamal Hamdonuah
Muhammad Nahdh Helmi Alamaidnuah
Faryal Zaid Bilal Alnoiri
Hamzah Wael Hamdan Aldhdoh
Nashin Sama Shaaban Alshir Aoi
Fatin Mani Mahmoud Alkhilot
Ahmed Ayman Muhammad
Nashat Naiam Muhammad Asafoar
Salsbil Nasser Ali Alhtab
Osama Muhammad Suleiman al-Satl
Jafar Mahir Harab Badoi
Omar Aoni Mahmoud Abed
Muhammad Fawad Muhammad Assad Fawad Muhammad Yousef Assad Yo
Khidr Mufid Khaled Abu Aidah
Muhammad Rayed Mahmoud Abu Saeed
Wissam Nafath Ramadan Mghari
Muhannad Marad Abdullah Tafsh
Khaled Adel Muhammad Abutaqiya
Ahmed Mahir Jasr Srahan
Afanan Zaki Jmuaah al-Najar
Wafaa Abdul-qader Ahmed al-Satl
Bthinuah Sadq Adnan Sadq
Muhammad Haider Tofiq Hamad
Samar Jamal Muhammad Mousa
Ahmed Nabil Saeed Squr
Nada Husam Aodah Dhhir
Yasr Arafat Ismail Altrtoari
Yamai Mahmoud Taha al-Akkad
Rawan Nael Ramz Brabkh
Yarin Ibrahem Jmuaah Abonhl
Nadiah Sami Qsam Alnajilai
Amaro Zuhair Aamar Shafot
Asraa Jamal Muhammad Abu-shuaib
Ahmed Jadallah Audatallah Alarjaah
Ahmed Ibrahem Hamdan Qadih
Suham Sami Suleiman Abunaja
Ahmed Aodh Hamdan Farahat
Saad Zaki Mahmoud Aljzar
Muatz Saleh Suleiman Aboadwan
Hind Aodah Yousef Altlbanei

Aged 25

Farid Ahmed Saeed Alaalol
Bian Fadl Hashem Tmaraz
Alaa Mustafa Khamis al-Louh
Ibrahem Mesbah Ahmed Abuloz
Mahmoud Essam Ali Shmot
Ghadah Saleh Muhammad Mshmsh
Muain Sama Kamal Abohsirah
Samar Abdul-hay Ali al-Nabahin
Fardos Khaled Salman Abu-hwaishel
Aasaf Ali Fozai Abohamd
Abdal-majid Yunus Abdal-majid al-Satl
Muhammad Mahmoud Ali Jhajoh
Ahmed Nasser Abdal-fattah Hasanuah
Hadil Abdal-fattah Aataiah al-Nabahin
Fadl Hussain Radwan Abu Hamadah
Yhaii Yousef Abdalazaiaz Aboaitah
Muhammad Asknadr Salima Abohamd
Laila Saeed Khamis Alshoarabji
Moaz Fares Abd Abu-nimr
Hamza Waleed Shhdah Abuteer
Muhammad Ahmed Abdalihamaid Aboionis
Asma Ahmed Khamis Aboionis
Anas Saeed Muhammad Abuobaid
Hitham Mdht Muhammad Hanon
Ghadah Nabil Hassan al-Najar
Ahmed Asbitan Mahmoud Abu-sido
Ainas Sami Muhammad Ismail
Muhammad Salem Kamal Alnabiah
Sobhiah Waleed Jehad al-Masri
Ismail Mahmoud Hamdan Shmlkh
Ahmed Nizmai Saadi Alnadiam
Muhammad Ismail Mahmoud Alshnabari
Mai Muhammad Rajab Salem
Heba Mahir Sabra al-Mutawaq
Samah Sameir Tofiq Radha
Wlaa Ashraf Omar Tmos
Bhiah Foza Sbha Arafat
Muhammad Rafiq Mahmoud Jarghoun
Qasam Ayman Ibrahem Abushamala
Hitham Fawad Abdul-dardasawi
Yahya Bsam Salem Aldhish
Muhammad Zyad Abdalrahamun Althraoi
Fiola Jris Issa Alamsh
Ibrahem Abdalhakiam Muhammad Jnid
Eman Mahmoud Sbh Alsaid
Azhaar Khidr Ibrahem Yasain
Essam Muhammad Essam Allbabidi
Muatsm Nadr Mahmoud Aldhdoh
Karam Rayed Abd Hlla Abohamam







Over 170 Journalists Martyred in Gaza since Oct 7th

Changes we want to see from SOAS

End SOAS' complicity in the colonisation and genocide of the Palestinian people - Meet the Liberated Zone's demands.

1. **Disclose details of all University investments immediately and continue to do so on an annual basis.**
2. **Divest from companies complicit in Israel's occupation and denial of Palestinian rights, including Accenture, Albermarle, Alphabet, Barclays, Microsoft, Newton Investment Management, RELX and Sony and commit to not reinvesting.**
3. **Terminate the University's banking relationship with Barlays.**
4. **Boycott and cut ties with University of Haifa and all Israeli academic institutions, which are complicit in the genocidal campaign on Gaza and in widespread violation of Palestinian rights.**
5. **Commit to supporting Palestinian education and the rebuilding of Gaza's destroyed schools, hospitals and universities. Establish partnerships and exchanges with Palestinian institutions and academics, increase scholarships for Palestinian students and advocate for the removal of restrictions on Palestinian expression and movement.**
6. **Revoke the new SOAS protest policy and guarantee the right of students and staff to free expression and end the targeted repression of Palestine solidarity on campus.**
7. **Advocate for the UK government to implement an immediate arms embargo on Israel and to use all leverage to effect an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire.**

We would like to take this important milestone as an opportunity to remind everyone that SOAS has failed to meet or even effectively work towards a single demand. Meeting these demands, comprehensively and without compromise, is a starting point towards repairing SOAS' institutional weakness and colonial complicity. SOAS' reaction to the genocide in Gaza and Palestine solidarity on campus has highlighted that SOAS is not the 'World's University', it has been made clear that the world being referred to here does not include oppressed peoples, it does not include Palestinians. As a University that aims to 'build bridges within the global communities and to empower its students to question the global status quo', we expect SOAS to provide a safer and more inclusive environment for all its stakeholders to accomplish exactly that. This starts with addressing the double standards and racism embedded in the institutional fabric of SOAS. Lecture theatres at SOAS praise decoloniality and the liberation of the oppressed, but shy away from confronting the fact that colonialism is not merely a relic of the past, that it blatantly exists in the form of a Zionist Entity on Palestinian land and Palestinian people also deserve to decolonise and live in freedom. As an institution that prides itself on being decolonial SOAS needs to reckon with the fact that de-colonialism is not a metaphor, that it is not merely a facade they can use to recruit students, but that is alive in the form of resistance all over the world, especially in Palestine. Not only does SOAS conceal the truth, it represses students that see and advocate for the truth. SOAS' repressive environment needs to shift, and the first step towards that is firing Adam Habib, whose presence on campus has merely served as an oppressive tool to extinguish student activism. Instead of targeting and demonising student activism, this University should encourage it inside and outside its classrooms.

Graduates, don't let yourself be sucked into the path of 'recolonisation' paved for you by this colonial institution. Pave a new path that is embedded into anti-colonial efforts, that supports local networks of resistance and use your voices as alums to speak up against the repression of students at SOAS and the oppression of peoples everywhere. The one thing you have truly learnt from SOAS is that they have no red lines when it comes to repressing activism, that their facade of progression somehow does not include Palestinian liberation.

FIRE HABIB
RALLY @ SOAS CAMPUS
Soas students call for director to resign over use of N-word
#FIRE HABIB
REVOKE NEW PROTEST POLICY - ADHERE TO BDS
- FIRE HABIB

What can you do as SOAS Graduates/Alumni

Be Involved in Campaigns against repression

1. **Email the University: Email SOAS expressing your support for the students by holding members of the Executive Board, namely Adam Habib accountable for his complicity. Demand to drop the suspensions/expulsions and ensure that this does not set a precedent for SOAS future students. Demand that the two recently elected sabbatical officers are reinstated back into the Student Union.**
2. **Advocacy and Awareness: Alumni can use their professional networks and platforms to raise awareness about student-led campaigns. This might include writing op-eds, speaking at events, or using social media to amplify student voices.**
3. **Connecting Students with Resources: They can help connect current student organizers with activists, and organizations working on these issues, providing guidance, mentorship/experiences.**
4. **Fundraising: Organize or contribute to fundraising efforts for student groups. This can help support activities such as workshops, campaigns, protests, and events.**
5. **Campaign Endorsements: Alumni can endorse student campaigns and send letters of support to university administration, media, or other relevant stakeholders.**

SOAS ALUMNI FOR PALESTINE

Join the Alumni for Palestine Group Chat!

SUPPORT THE STUDENTS

1. Show up to events put on by SOAS students and encourage new SOAS studwnts to join in order to oragnise together to make SOAS a better place. Alumni and Graduates play a big role in sharing their experiences and having help from those previously in the university can build up momentum and pressure directly against the university.
2. Join the SOAS Alumni chat. Following on from the previous point, keep updated with events organised by SOAS Alumni and roles you can play in supporting current students.
3. Coordination Across Campuses: Encourage coordination between alumni from different universities or colleges to build a larger network of solidarity and support for these causes.
4. Organize Alumni Events: Host events, like webinars or panel discussions, to educate and engage both alumni and current students on these issues
5. Petitions and Open Letters: Alumni can lead or participate in campaigns such as petitions, open letters, or boycott movements that target their alma mater's policies, practices, or investments related to these issues.
6. Campaign Against University Investments: If universities have investments in companies or sectors contrary to the cause (e.g., companies complicit in the zionist occupation such as Albemarle which invest in producing white phosphorus or those violating workers' rights), alumni should campaign for divestment and ethical investing.
7. Demand Policy Changes: Push for institutional changes that support student activism, such as protecting free speech on campus, ensuring students' rights to protest, or establishing ethical procurement policies.
8. Publicize Student Efforts: Use alumni platforms (newsletters, blogs, social media) to spotlight student organizing efforts, bringing these to the attention of a broader audience..

Timeline of repression at SOAS

2006

- Outsourced cleaners start organising against low wages, sick pay, and to be in-housed on the same terms and conditions as the rest of SOAS staff.

2009

- January - students occupy the Brunei gallery to protest the atrocities committed by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza, and SOAS' complicity. Students win agreements against any collaboration between SOAS and the military.
- 12th June - SOAS calls cleaners into a health and safety meeting which is turns out to be cover for an immigration raid. 9 cleaners are deported: Carlos, Heidi, Rosa, Laura, Milton, Manuel, Marina, Albert, Luzia. This includes one pregnant, whose son is later born, Lucas. Students occupy management offices in protsst, and rename the G2 lecture theatre as the Lucas Lecture theatre. In 2024, SOAS have still not apologised for their role in destroying the lives of these people.

2010

- The national student movement erupts after a huge demonstration in Westminster which includes the smashing up of the Conservative Party headquarters. SOAS students push the movement forward by initiating a wave of campus occupations, which bring in support from academics and professional services staff at the school. The demands are to reverse the tripling of university fees and removal of educational maintenance grants.

2012

- November: Students re-occupy the Brunei Gallery over the zionist assault on Gaza, Students demand that SOAS create links with Al-Aqsa University and condemn the governments comments on the violence.

2014

- Students at SOAS join the resurgence of the national student movement, demanding the abolition of tuition fees and "a whole new education system"

2015

UK

- A school-wide referendum votes heavily in favour of implementing BDS across the university
- Students occupy the Brunei gallery in protest against the decision of Director Valerie Amos to make £3.7million in cuts - slashing 137 courses - in order that SOAS runs a profit. SOAS cancels classes during the occupation, and unfairly dismisses Unison branch secretary Sandy Nicoll - who is reinstated after mass protests

Timeline of repression at SOAS

2015

South Africa

- The #RhodesMustFall movement catalyses calls to decolonise universities.
- At Wits, where Adam Habib is Vice-Chancellor, on 27 May 2015, some workers and students fill the Vice Chancellor's office to demand accountability by University management, who had not been responding to emails and other queries.
- On 14th October, after exhausting all diplomatic channels, students coordinate a shutdown of Wits University due to the 10.5% fee hike. The Fees Must Fall movement continues on a national scale, gaining solidarity In London alsoi

FEES MUST FALL TIMELINE

2016

South Africa

- Adam Habib calls militarised police to shutdown university protests demanding access to higher education for disadvantaged students. He later says "I knew it was going to be rough". Multiple students are shot with rubber bullets, causing life-long injuries, including in the back as they were fleeing police. Habib defends hjs actions to this day (2024).

2017

UK

- 12th June - on the day of commemoration of the deportation of 9 cleaners, SOAS announces the redundancy of outsourced catering staff, In response, students occupy the Director's office, and win demands that reverse the redundancies and commit to an end to outsourcing on campus.
- Israeli ambassador Mark Regev is invited to speak on behalf of the zionist entity at SOAS, and the university allow the zionist entity to control security for the event. Over 100 academics and 32 student societies sign a letter opposing the talk, as "state propagand" and a mass protest is held on the day of the talk.

2019

- SOAS management announces "One professional service" restructuring, effectively imposing 'fire and rehire' to force staff onto lower pay grades and enforce systematic precarity through short, fixed term contracts instead of permanent posts

2020

- "Transformation and change" continues mass redudancies over summer.
- In Autumm, Adam Habib joins as Director of SOAS

2021

- In his first all-student meeting, Adam Habib uses the n-word and subsequently defends his right to do so, depsite the protests of Black students, After mass outrage ensues, Habib is suspended (on full pay), and the Board of Trustees carry out a superficial investigation which centres Habib and fails to offer reparatory justice to affected students and staff. Students and staff pass motions of no-confidence in Habib

Summer

- In Autumn, UCU and Unison begin nation-wide strike action over real-terms pay cuts and systematic casualistion, and ethnic & gender pay gaps.

Art and the Afrikan Mind: Representing, Centring & Advocating 4 The Black Student Body of SOAS:

Timeline of repression at SOAS

2022

- In March, students held an occupation of the SOAS administration floor in solidarity with striking faculty and workers. Their demands also included a truly decolonial education, firing director Adam Habib and cutting ties with Haifa University, which trains IOF colonial officers and is built on stolen Palestinian land. SOAS' response marked a decisive escalation in the repressive way that university management handled student resistance on campus. Habib forbade students from using the toilet for the entirety of the occupation, painted over student artwork on the walls of the students union as an intimidation tactic, shut down the entire campus for days, engaged in only one negotiation meeting with the occupiers, in which they refused to acknowledge the student's demands, and used a manipulative narrative in student and staff emails to discredit the occupation. After eight days of occupation, SOAS hired private bailiffs who broke in through the windows in the middle of the night equipped with riot gear and dragged students out, injuring three students.
- In the wake of this occupation, there was a dramatic increase in security on campus — SOAS spent around £650K on external security in the year following the occupation. This increased securitisation of campus has only increased since 2022, with the presence of externally hired security and constant ID checks being a marked feature of the SOAS campus.
- In reaction to the combination of the workers strikes and the student occupation, the university banned union pickets inside the campus, in particular on the SOAS steps, where they had historically been held. Striking workers have since been forced to hold their pickets outside the university gates.

Summer

- Over the summer of 2022, the Student Union constitution was drastically changed, resulting in the restructuring of SU governance and operations. The SU Board of Trustees was restructured to include the four elected co-Presidents as well as four appointed student trustees and four external trustees, where before only students sat on the board. The constitution change also resulted in the scrapping of SU general meetings, which previously occurred at least once a term in addition to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), so that the AGM is now the only opportunity for students to collectively put forward their wishes to their union, once a year.
- Alongside the constitution review, Irfan Zaman was appointed CEO of the Student Union.

- In October, PRALER was launched by communities across the world, in glocal-link with organisations, networks and communities here. The PRALER Glocal Declaration was shared, an assertion of the shared efforts in defending our indigenous and peoples' rights, Mother Earth rights, and commitment to building our communities for a world of peace, justice and Planet Repairs. The Green was occupied and reclaimed as the Walter Rodney Freedom Square, in honour of Walter Rodney and his example as a guerrilla intellectual, that used his knowledges in service to the liberation efforts of his peoples.

2023

March

- Students held a rally on the steps of the Main Building to mark one year of the Fire Habib campaign. This resulted in twelve students receiving complaints of 'Serious Student Misconduct' under the disciplinary procedure form the universities head of security Cornelius Portgieter. He claimed that the students had taken part in an unauthorised protest an attempted occupation, which amounted to unacceptable conduct in the form of abusive behaviour and operational obstruction. The so-called 'abusive behaviour' was simply students chanting the name of their director, Adam Habib, in order to hold him accountable for his many violent institutional failings.

April-June

Faculty marking boycott

- SOAS academic staff took industrial action in through April and May in the form of a marking and assessment boycot. The university responded by cutting 100% of pay for workers involved in the action, resulting in staff having upwards of £1500 stolen from their wages. Pension contributions of 20% in deferred wages were also withheld, amounting to a total deduction of 120% of pay. On top of this being an overall attack on workers rights to carry out industrial action, it was a completely disproportionate, as marking constitutes only 5-10% of academics work load.

Summer

- Over the summer, the SU carried out a refurbishment of the Junior Common Room (JCR) and SU bar under the direction of university management. This refurbishment saw the painting over of years worth of student artwork on the walls, the removal of big communal tables and, critically, the removal of the connecting stairs between the JCR and the bar. This was a clear attempt to control and sanitise a space that was used as a base for student organising on campus.

September

- The SU CEO Irfan Zaman personally invited the Union of Jewish Students to the 2023 freshers fair. The UJS is an explicitly zionist organisation which is directly funded by the Israeli embassy in London and proclaims to "passionately engage with Israel".

October

- On the 9th of October students held a protest against the latest round of extreme violence that the zionist entity was committing in Gaza, which would soon become a clear genocide. SOAS responded by suspending four students and banning three alumni from campus for "health and safety violations' and sending warnings letters to all members of the Palestinian Society committee. This was a clear attempt to set an example that would intimidate students into silence.

2023

November

- Staff released a statement against the students' suspensions which received 115 signatures.
- The SU co-presidents put forward a motion for the Students' Union to call for a ceasefire in Gaza which eventually passed, resulting in the resignation of all external trustees on the SU board. The SU then claimed that this left the remaining trustees without Quorum, and therefore unable to make decisions.
- After multiple walkouts on campus, which were heavily securitised, with barriers put up around the main building entrance, the Socialist Worker Student Society had all society activities suspended my the SU for organising unauthorised protests.

December

- Following a protest against the ongoing suspensions, a student received a disciplinary warning for speaking at the protest.
- In the first week of the December holiday, the suspensions were dropped after the students had missed almost an entire term of their studies. In the same week the university sent an email to all students and staff about the assassination of Dr Refaat Alareer by the zionist entity which included a call for an immediate ceasefire. The timing of this email along with the suspensions ending was a clear attempt to placate the student body before the new term. SOAS has since proven that these were empty words, after they destroyed Dr Alareer's memorial bench plaque installed by the SOAS Liberated Zone.

2024

January

- A SOAS student was arrested in a house raid by counter terrorism police for a speech delivered at a protest on SOAS campus. SOAS then refused to respond to a freedom of information request about their involvement in the arrest.

February

- SOAS announced new protest 'guidelines' for students which prevent students from taking part in protests on campus which are not approved by both the SU and the university. The guidelines effectively bans any protests in front of building entrances, in particular on the Main Building steps, and states that individuals of the SOAS community must not be targeted. In effect, this means that students cannot hold accountable those in positions of power, who are paid to represent the institution.
- The Students' Union elections resulted in the election of four candidates who ran on a campaign of Palestine solidarity, democratising education and resisting student repression. They won with an overwhelming majority.

March

- SOAS cut courses in the International Foundation Courses and English Language Studies department, a move which resulted in multiple staff redundancies and would specifically impact international students' studies.
- 3 students were physically removed from an alumni event for flyering about the IFCELS cuts. One student was physically assaulted by security as they were removed from the building and another student received a disciplinary which the school later chose not to investigate.

May

- On the 6th of May the SOAS Liberated Zone for Gaza (SLZ) was set up on the Walter Rodney Freedom Square to pressure SOAS to end its complicity in the genocide and colonisation of the Palestinian people. The university responded with a letter to all students and staff from Adam Habib stating that the universtiy would allow the encampment to exist so long as it did not expand beyond the green area and did not cause any disruption to the universities functioning.
- Subsequent to the establishment of the encampment there was a huge increase in the presence of security on campus and ID checks at building entrances became much more rigorous.

June

- SOAS issued disciplinary warnings to several students and a formal disciplinary complaint to one student for attempting to hand out flyers at a Board of Trustees meeting.
- These disciplinaries came the day before the first negotiations meeting with management on the SLZ's demands was set to take place. The SLZ pulled out of the meeting due to the blatant display of bad faith from the university.
- At a protest on the steps of the Main Building, campus security assaulted two black protesters, resulting in one being hospitalised.

July

- The university opened disciplinary cases against four students, and later one other student, for 'participating in unannounced protests', putting the protest guidelines passed earlier in the year to use in order to silence students.
- UCU passed a motion of no confidence in Adam Habib after he squared up to a student in the quad and called them a "thug".
- The SU dismissed two of the elected co-Presidents, on the morning they were due to start work, for their criticism of SU and university management.
- One student was permanently excluded from the university and another suspended for six months for chanting about the university director's complicity in the genocide in Gaza, with Adam Habib claiming 'harassment'.

Summer

- Seven students received disciplinaries as SU CEO Irfan Zaman claimed 'harassment' against the group of students for being approached at a work meeting by two students out of the group who asked him about the dismissals of the co-Presidents.
- Adam Habib made a further claim of 'harassment' against two students for chanting about his complicity in the genocide in Gaza.

We extend our gratitude to the Palestinian people, who have taught us what the true meaning of steadfastness is. We resist because we learn from their strength and resilience. None of us are free until Palestine is free. None of us are free until all of us are free.